

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-07 DHA-02 ORM-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /091 W

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R 231830Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

INFO AMCONSUL FORT DE FRANCE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1581

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, FG, GY, PFOR

SUB):5: FRENCH IMMIGRANTS TO FRENCH GUIANA

1. DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, PRO-INDEPENDENCE OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN FROM FRENCH GUIANA HAVE TRAVELLED TO GUYANA AT LEAST THREE TIMES AND HAVE AT LEAST TWICE CONFERRED WITH PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM. GUY LAMAZE, WHO CALLS HIMSELF A 35-YEAR OLD MATHEMATICS TEACHER AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE MOVEMENT GUYANAIS POUR LE DECOLONISATION (MOGUYDE) APPARENTLY MADE TWO OF THOSE TRIPS. LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED HIS CHARGES THAT 30,000 FRENCHMEN, OR IN ANOTHER VERSION, 50,000 VIETNAMESE WERE BEING SENT BY FRANCE TO COLONIZE FRENCH GUIANA IN ORDER TO DILUTE PRO-INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT AS WELL AS THE PREDOMINATELY BLACK RACIAL MAKE-UP OF THE PEOPLE.

2. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, I RECEIVED TELEPHONE QUERY FROM LOCAL REPORTER (CHRONICLE) REQUESTING COMMENT TO CHARGE BY MOGUYDE SPOKESMAN THAT USG WAS FINANCING SETTLEMENT OF 50,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN FRENCH GUIANA. I REPLIED THAT STORY OF USG-FINANCING SOUNDED PREPOSTEROUS, WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, AND I SERIOUSLY DOUBTED IT. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF

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STATEMENT TO REPORTER, CHARGE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS NOT CARRIED

IN LOCAL PRESS

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, FONOFF PERMSEC COLLINS COMMENTED HE HAD SEEN NEW YORK TIMES STORY (POSSIBLY IDENTIFAL TO AP STORY DATELINED PARIS IN SEPT 15 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE WHICH INDICATED GOF WANTED 30,000 SETTLERS) THAT 15,000 FRENCH HAD ANSWERED GOF CALL TO SETTLE IN FRENCH GUIANA.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, HENRI CHOLLET, BASED IN PORT OF SPAIN, PAID COURTESY CALL ON ME SEPT 18 AFTER PRESENTING CREDENTIALS AND CALLNG ON PM. HE SAID BURNHAM REPEATED MOGUYDE'S CHARGES AND QUERIED HIM ABOUT THEM. HE TOLD BURNHAM, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ME, THAT ONLY COLONIZATION CONTEMPLATED FOR FRENCT GUIANA WAS CONNECTED WITH PARSONS WHITTEMORE PULP AND TIMBER PROJENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT 1200 WORKERS ON PROJECT AND PERHAPS 1300 IN ANCILLARY FACILITIES. SINCE GOF, ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, ANTICIPATES THAT ABOUT HALF OF WORKFORCE CAN BE RECRUITED LOCALLY FROM PRESENT RESIDENTS FRENCH GUIANA, ONLY ABOUT 5,000 NEW IMMIGRANTS (INCLUDING FAMILIES) ARE ANTICIPATED. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT NO RPT NO VIETNAMESE OTHER THAN POSSIBLE INCIDENTAL FRENCH PASSPORT HOLDER OF VIETNAMESE ANCESTRY ARE ANTICIPATED AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS. HE ADDED TO ME HE UNDERSTOOD USG HAD REQUESTED THAT FRANCE TAKE LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN FRENCH GUIANA BUT THAT FRANCE HAD REFUSED REQUEST BECAUSE OF LOCAL POLITIAL OPPOSITION WHICH COMPLIANCE WOULD HAVE CAUSED.
MATTHEWS

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